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merely been traced into Nebraska recently and incidentally rather than as a part of a critical revisionary study, and (4) that the original locality remains quite as accessible and more typical than the localities in Nebraska, unite to make this proposal of a fourth title a proceeding of doubtful wisdom.

T. C. C.

Die Diamantführenden Gesteine Südafrikas. Ihr Abbau und ihre Aufbereitung. By DR. PERCY A. WAGNER. Pp. 207, 29 text figures, and 2 plates. Berlin: Gebrüder Borntraeger, 1909.

One of the fascinating problems of South African geology is the formation of the peculiar kimberlite pipes and the origin of the diamonds which have made them so famous. This new work will be welcomed as a contribution to that interesting subject. It describes carefully the different phases of the kimberlite which fills the pipes, from the but scarcely altered hardibank through the hard blue ground, soft blue ground, to the completely altered, hydrated, and well-oxidized yellow ground near the surface. The point is made that within the pipes distinct zones can be traced from top to bottom. Because certain individual characteristics, both of the general material and of the diamonds as well, can be traced throughout each zone, several observers have concluded that the pipes were formed and filled by several distinct volcanic eruptions. But the nature of the eruptions which produced these great pipes, and at the same time filled them with breccia, volcanic tuff, and a rather heterogeneous mass of material derived in part from the deep-seated rocks, but containing also fragments of sedimentary formations occurring at higher horizons, has not been brought out very clearly and is perhaps not yet well understood. Contact metamorphic phenomena appear to be of rather limited extent.

An interesting feature described by the author is that, on account of the serpentinization of the olivine in the filling of the pipes, the material has, in some cases, undergone a marked increase in volume. This increase in volume has caused the filling to swell upward and this process has resulted in the striation of the walls of the pipe.

The three principal hypotheses of the origin of the diamonds are discussed. The author argues against the view held by some South African geologists that the diamonds have been derived from disrupted deep-seated eclogites, and favors the theory that the diamonds were developed in the midst of the magma from its own inherent constituents.

Chapters describing in detail the minerals of the pipes and dikes and dealing with the petrography make up about half of the book. The work ends with chapters on the methods of mining and the statistics of the diamond-mining industry.

R. T. C.

Geographical Essays. By William Morris Davis. Edited by Douglas Wilson Johnson. Pp. 777, 130 text figures. Boston: Ginn & Co., 1909.

An endeavor has been made in this volume to meet the growing demand for an edition of Professor Davis' most important geographical essayss Twenty-six of these essays have been reprinted from the pages of the variou. publications in which they originally appeared and grouped under two heads: Part I, embracing twelve educational essays, and Part II, fourteen physiographic essays. The high character of these essays is so familiar to all geologists and geographers that special comment seems superfluous.

R. T. C.

The Cement Resources of Virginia, West of the Blue Ridge. By Ray S. Bassler, Ph.D. Bulletin No. 11 A, Virginia Geological Survey. Pp. 309, 30 plates, and 30 text figures. Charlottesville, 1909.

This report deals essentially with the limestones and shales of Appalachian Virginia—in other words, with the materials there present which may be used in the manufacture of cement. The Cambro-Ordovician limestones have received the greatest attention, though the post-Ordovician cement materials are also discussed toward the close of the book. A large number of chemical analyses of the limestones from the various localities are given. Since practically nothing concerning the Paleozoic fossils of Virginia has appeared in the literature, the author has included plates portraying some of the characteristic species employed in the discrimination of the different formations. The report is well illustrated.

R. T. C.